



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Stephen P. Corbett,
Council Vice-President

John A. Donohue,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Cecilia Lenk,
District B Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
District C Councilor

John J. Lawn, Jr.,
District D Councilor

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010 - 7:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber
Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen P. Corbett, Jr., John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** December 15, 2009 Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** Council President Sideris opened up the public forum and recognized Richard Hoover, Irving Park – who welcomed the new Council and reminded councilors that the well is dry and the purse is empty due to overspending in Washington, DC.

5. **ORGANIZATION:**

a) Election of Vice President. Councilor Lawn moved to nominate Councilor Corbett as Vice President, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

b) Selection of seating assignments.

c) Adoption of current [Rules of the Town Council](#) temporary Rules of the Town Council. Councilor Lenk moved the temporary Rules, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

d) Adoption of prior [resolution](#) authorizing issuance of proclamations. Councilor Falkoff moved the resolution, seconded by Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair noted that the temporary Rules and resolution regarding issuance of proclamations will be referred to the Rules and Ordinances Committee for review per the Council rules.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

a) Public hearing and vote on a proposed Historic Landmark [Ordinance](#). President Sideris recognized David Russo, Chairperson of the Historic Commission who provided an overview of the proposed ordinance. It was noted that the historic property owner must consent to the process. The hearing was opened up to the public. The Chair recognized Robert Childs, 2 Cross Street and member of the Historical Society who spoke about the loss of so many valuable properties in Watertown and in support of the proposed ordinance as important to the foundation of society. There being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Falkoff moved to adopt the ordinance subject to an amendment by deleting the word **but**, noting the grammatical error to page 3, section 3b, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by unanimous roll call vote. Ordinance adopted as amended.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM TOWN OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES:

a) Informational Presentation on [Economic Development Study](#) – Steven Magoon, Community Development & Planning Director and Peter Kwass, Principal, Mt. Auburn Associates. A Request for Proposals and Scope of Work was reviewed. It was noted that the study will provide a significant step in the Town's efforts for a town wide comprehensive planning and will provide a basis for the Town's future economic development efforts.

8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) First Reading on [Curb and Sidewalk](#) Ordinance. Mr. Steve Magoon, Planning Director, provided a brief overview of the proposed ordinance. It was noted that the proposed ordinance will be advertised and placed on the agenda for a public hearing and vote.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a) Committee Assignments-2010. The Chair announced [Committee Assignments](#) as attached.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a) Report on January 6, 2010 Special Meeting of the Town Council regarding the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law. The Chair reviewed draft [minutes](#) for January 6, 2010 and noted that the minutes will be placed on the next agenda for action.

The Chair recognized Councilor Kounelis who briefly reviewed Boston Biomedical Research Institutes efforts to develop an Adult Stem Cell Technology Center. The funding request is being made to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center established by the state legislature to distribute a \$1 billion pledge by Governor Deval Patrick to support the life sciences industry in Massachusetts. Councilor Falkoff moved to send a letter of support for this endeavor, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Councilor Piccirilli who read a draft [letter](#) to Mr. Robert Kaprielian of the Cable Access Corporation encouraging the

broadcasting of more meetings of boards and commissions. Councilor Kounelis moved to approve sending the letter, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote. See attached letter.

The Chair introduced a [proclamation](#) presented to Thomas J. Sullivan upon his retirement as Recreation Director after more than thirty six years. Councilor Piccirilli moved the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair provided an update of the January School Committee meeting and reviewed a \$60,000 federal grant program entitled "Race to the Top".

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) Submission of the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Improvement Program. The Chair noted that the CIP will be referred to the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee for review and discussed and brought back to the Council to be adopted by March 9, 2010.

Manager is accepting and reviewing applications to the Branch Library Reuse Committee.

12. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Donohue announced that he will no longer be receiving paper communications and that he will be having his mail and agendas sent by email in order to cut down on the consumption of paper and cost. He requested other councilors to contact the Council Clerk if they wish to go paperless.

Councilor Falkoff announced that the Council President is seeking members for the Charter Commission with a January 20th deadline.

Councilor Palomba announced that I announced the 10th annual Unity Breakfast on Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday scheduled for Monday, January 18 at 9:00am at the Hellenic Center.

14. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

15. ADJOURNMENT and EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm and go into executive session in order to discuss strategy regarding the purchase, lease, or exchange real property and that the Town Council will not return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

The minutes of January 12th were adopted as amended on February 9, 2010 by voice vote.